



17 March 2023

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 17 February 2023 in which you asked for:

*“I’m following up on this story <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/362k-fence-in-national-park-doesnt-keep-cattle-out-of-water>
In the story, [REDACTED] refers to an agreement signed with [REDACTED] and his farm company in March 2019. I’m interested in all DOC reports provided to the decisionmaker before this agreement was signed, including, but not limited to, environmental and ecological assessments, assessments of whether this decision aligns with legislation, policies and plans, and a summary report of all the issues.”*

On 27 February 2023, we contacted you to explain that while there was only one document in scope of your original request, we had identified two additional documents that may be of interest to you, these being an ecological report and a fencing and management agreement. We offered to refine your request to include these on receipt of a response from you. Your response was received on the same day, and we amended your request to include these documents.

The issue of cattle in the forested area of the Fiordland National Park (FNP) and Eglington River has been a longstanding one. The fencing agreement supplied in this response was signed in March 2019 and saw a 14km fence erected to exclude cattle from the 1.2million ha FNP. Cattle were removed from the FNP in early 2022 and since then no cattle have been observed within the FNP protected by the fence.

This fencing agreement is a ‘give and take’ agreement - meaning where it is not practical and by agreement, the fence will not follow the surveyed boundary. This meant the fence could be built avoiding flood prone areas and resulted in an area of 60ha of Te Anau Downs Station (TADS) containing wetlands being protected as it was on the FNP side of the fence.

It also protected an area of approximately 26ha of FNP that is predominately in pasture with a small section of the Dunton Creek running through it on the TADS side of the fence.

The management agreement supplied in the response sets out land-use of this area stating [redacted] can graze/crop this area. It is important to note that the fencing agreement has ensured cattle are excluded from the mainstem of the Eglington River and forested area of the National Park, and also that [redacted] is endeavouring to exclude stock from the lower section of the flood prone Dunton Creek.

The following documents are in scope of this request and are attached:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	14 April 2016	Report of assessment of the vegetation values along proposed fence line boundary between Fiordland National Park and Te Anau Downs Station	Released in part, redactions under section 9(2)(a)
2	12 February 2019	Briefing report to Deputy Director-General Operations re fencing agreement	Released in part, out of scope material has been removed
3	12 March 2019	Fencing and Management Agreement between DOC, Peter Chartres and CP Trustees Limited	Released in part, redactions under section 9(2)(a)

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests which outweigh the grounds for withholding.

Please note also that information that is outside of the scope of your request has been removed from item 2.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā



David Butt
Acting Director Operations, Southern South Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai